

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
Agricultural Burning Rule Advisory Committee Meeting
November 10, 2005 10:00 – 4:00
Washington Department of Transportation, Spokane Office
SUMMARY

In attendance

Larry Cochran	WA Conservation Districts	<u>Staff</u>	
Bob Gore	Department of Agriculture	Melissa McEachron	Ecology
Michael Ingham	Alfalfa Seed Growers	Lori Isenberg	facilitator
Michael Bush	WSU- Extension		
Jay Penner	Wheat Growers		
Dave Lauer	Clean Air Authorities (BCAA)		
Grant Pfeifer	Department of Ecology		
Tim Conner	Save Our Summers		
Bill Johnston	WSU- Crop & Soil Sciences		
Sverre Vedal MD	Environmental and Occupational Health		

Agreements made during meeting

- Suggested changes to language for Fire Safety
- Include IAQ definition and references
- Definition of Orchard
- Definition of Orchard Pruning

Assignments

- Michael Bush will communicate with the orchardists to identify their feelings on the current fees and proposed changes
- Melissa will provide updates to the committee regarding the timing and process of the economic analyses.

Opening

Lori Isenberg welcomed the group and gave a brief overview of the purpose of the meeting. Melissa gave an overview of progress to date and the agenda for today. She reiterated that she felt Ecology had received the input they need on the Settlement Issues at the last meeting and does not see the need to address those items again.

Fire Safety

Melissa led the group through discussion of the proposed language changes related to Fire Safety (RCW 70.94.745). After minimal discussion the group agreed with the intent of the proposed changes; Melissa will refine the language based on their input. (see attached)

Impaired Air Quality

The group then moved to Impaired Air Quality (RCW 70.94.745). It was suggested that Melissa add language to refer the reader to 030. With that minor addition, the group agreed with the proposed changes.

Orchards

Michael Bush provided an overview of issues relevant to orchards. He explained there are three types of burning occurring in orchards: pruning, renewal and mass take-out.

Definition of Orchard Pruning

The group discussed potential definitions for orchard pruning. They determined that it is not related to vineyards, hops, berries, pulp/fiber, Christmas trees, or currants. The definition they agreed upon is:

A periodic agricultural operation to remove limbs and branches that assist in tree growth and training, and control diseases and pest infestation.

Definition of Orchard

The group then moved to the discussion of a definition for Orchard. The definition they agreed upon is:

A commercial agricultural operation for growing trees that produce fruit or nuts.

Task Force Meeting

The group then identified questions they would like answered for future Task Force discussion related to management processes for orchards.

- How to set an acreage equivalent for the fee for orchard burning?
- Clarify grafting under Renewal
- Rotating from an orchard to a field crop
- Windbreaks

Topics for January 11 meeting

- Exceptions 020
 - Fence rows, ditches
- Definitions 030
 - Ag operations, farmer
- Permit related items 040/070/080
- Public notice / Public education / Information to growers
 - Changes needed to current language?
 - Updates on what is being used now
- Review April 27 list and determine appropriate place (WAC or BMP) for certain items.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.